



EIS Communiqué

Sharing Election Infrastructure News and Resources

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Physical Security for Polling Places Protects Votes and Voters

Security is a two-sided coin: physical security on one side, and cybersecurity the other. There can be no real security of any type if one is overlooked or downplayed. State and local election officials know this and work to improve security of all aspects of election infrastructure including polling places and election administration. And, just as DHS's National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) supports enhancing cybersecurity efforts for elections officials, so too can NPPD assist with physical security.

A great starting point is meeting with an NPPD Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) Protective Service Advisor (PSA).

PSAs are security subject matter experts who engage with State and local government mission partners and members of the private sector stakeholder community to protect infrastructure. They serve as regional DHS critical infrastructure security specialists, providing a local perspective to—and supporting the development of—the national risk picture by identifying, assessing, monitoring, and minimizing risk to critical infrastructure at the regional, State, and local levels. Specifically, they provide training, conduct vulnerability assessments, support local special events, and respond to all-hazard incidents at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Joint Field Offices, Regional Coordination Centers, and in State and county Emergency Operations Center. For more information, please contact your local Protective Security Advisor (PSA) or email NICC@hq.dhs.gov to identify a PSA, or visit <https://www.dhs.gov/hometown-security>.

Election Security Web Page Up!

Remember – NPPD has created a new webpage focused on election infrastructure security-related issues is now available on the DHS website. NPPD created the webpage to more effectively share election infrastructure information and pertinent election community documents. Content includes overviews on NPPD cyber tools and services available at no cost to the state and local election community. Other content includes information on the electoral process, coordinating councils, and election security. Additional information is added frequently. To see what may be of benefit for you, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/topic/election-security>.



Homeland Security

EIS Background

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated election infrastructure as critical infrastructure on January 6, 2017. The designation created the Election Infrastructure Subsector under the Government Facilities sector, with DHS as its Sector Specific Agency (SSA). The designation set several actions in motion, such as the formation of coordinating councils, coordinated federal support, and the availability of services and tools for the Election Infrastructure Subsector. For more information on the topics of this Communiqué, please contact the EISSA at EISSA@hq.dhs.gov.

Purpose

The EIS Communiqué series will periodically inform subscribers of the myriad DHS services available to the EI community. DHS provides services on a no-cost, voluntary basis to state and local election officials.

Future EIS Communiqués will highlight various services and tools, such as assessments, threat information-sharing programs, network protection, best practices, incident response, and developments at the federal level.

Thank you,

Election Infrastructure SSA

We want to hear from you! Send us your comments on how we may better serve you as well as questions, feedback, and ideas for future Communiqué topics at EISSA@hq.dhs.gov.

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